

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## REPORT NO.

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**SUBJECT** Civil Security Controls in Harbin for Foreign Residents

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1. The Department of Public Safety of Harbin includes a Foreign Section which is responsible for all police and security matters pertaining to foreign residents.\* This section has two subdivisions, dealing respectively with passports and with criminal affairs. The Passport Office issues and controls residence permits, visas, house registers and documents. It is headed by a Chinese with two local Soviet women as assistants; one is Kapitalina Vakhrusheva.\*\*
2. The Criminal Affairs Office is responsible for all investigations of foreign residents on criminal charges. It is headed by a Polish citizen named Pisarski, and most of its non-Chinese employees are of Polish origin. Among foreign residents, the reason for this is rumored to be that the Soviet consulate general has forbidden local Soviets to obtain employment there. Cases of Soviet citizens are handled in direct coordination with the Police Liaison Section (Otdel Svyazi s Vlastyami) of the Soviet Citizens' Association; two police officials are assigned to it for liaison purposes.
3. Following the evacuation of the Soviet Army, when it was feared the Chinese might avenge on local residents the behavior of Soviet troops during the occupation, the Soviet Citizens' Association organized an operational group (Operativny Otryad) to defend Soviet citizens. This group, under Captain Akimov\*\*\* and hence known as the Akimov group, was never required because of the swift entry of Chinese Communist forces, but it continued for a time to act as a sort of strong-arm squad against anti-Soviet Russians. It was no longer very active in January 1950 and may have been abolished.
4. The basic control of the civilian foreign population in Harbin is the house registration, which was taken over practically without alteration from the Manchukuo government. Under this system, a group of ten families elected a leader (desyatnik) to assume group responsibility, and an entire block elected a block leader (kvartalnik), who was responsible to the district police office. At present, however, both family group and block leaders are appointed by the Soviet Citizens' Association or are chosen in elections controlled by the SCA. All leaders must be Soviet citizens (all who were not have been removed) and are responsible not only to the local police

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station but to the Police Liaison Section of the SCA.

5. Each house owner was required in early 1947, when a new foreign residence permit went into effect, to purchase a house register from the Bureau of Public Safety and to appoint one member of the household to be responsible for the registration of all persons residing in the house. On a fixed date, the police, the block leader, and an interpreter visited each house, received the house register and identity documents of each resident, and officially entered the names and permit numbers in the register; permits were stamped with a police seal on the upper left-hand corner of the first page to show that they had been duly registered. House owners are forbidden to make any additional entries in the register, although a new arrival in the household must be registered within twenty-four hours. The house owner or the group leader must take the house register and the new arrival's travel visa to the district police station for the entries to be made, and after the new resident turns in his visa and receives a regular residence permit (see below), one of these two persons must again have the new permit registered at the police station and stamped with the authenticating seal. Names of departing persons must similarly be checked out of the house register twenty-four hours before departure. Except for this registration or removal of names, the police never check the house registers, but the group leader is responsible for any irregularities, and he is usually well enough acquainted with the ten families of the group so that no changes could remain long undetected.
6. Harbin residents who obtained Soviet citizenship after 1946, as well as those who were Soviet citizens before the Soviet occupation, must possess
  - a. and c. of the following documents and may hold others listed:
    - a. Soviet Foreign Residence Permit (Zagranichni Sovetski Vid na Zhitelstvo), issued by the Soviet consulate general in Harbin. These documents are approximately 3½ by 5 inches in size, have a light-red cloth cover and light rose-colored paper with a fine-line design, and are printed in Russian and English. They must be renewed annually at the consulate general.
    - b. Temporary Certificate (Vremennoye Udostovereniye), valid for six months, issued to persons who have applied for restoration or acceptance of Soviet citizenship and have not yet received their residence permits. At the end of the term of validity, the holder must report to the consulate general, where he may be issued a regular residence permit, may have his certificate extended another six months, may be requested to reapply for Soviet citizenship and fill out all the questionnaires again, or may be told that he will not receive Soviet citizenship and must retain his stateless condition. It was rumored in January 1950 that temporary certificates were being renewed for only four months, and local people conjectured that at the end of that period all applicants would either be granted Soviet citizenship or refused permission to re-apply.
    - c. Foreign Residence Permit (Vid na Zhitelstvo), issued by the Harbin central Public Safety Bureau in spring 1947. Before these came out, a general census was held and all foreign residents were ordered to submit to the Northeast government applications for new permits, accompanied by a personal history questionnaire and the old Manchukuo Residence

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Certificates ; receipts were given for these last. The change to the new forms was made gradually over a six-month period, so that the Manchukuo Certificate or the receipt for it was valid until approximately July 1947. After that, all foreign residents of whatever nationality, except persons of diplomatic status, were required to possess the new Residence Permit. Soviet citizens from the USSR are believed all to have diplomatic status.

The new permit is 3 by 4 3/4 inches and made of white paper; the cover is stiff black paper with a fine-line design running horizontally down it and, about a fourth of the way down from the top, an opening through which the serial number on the first page can be seen. Below the opening is "Foreigners' Residence Certificate" in Chinese (外僑居留証) and below that in Russian "Vid na Zhitelstvo" and below that "Residence Certificate", all printing in gold. Pages one, two, and three contain personal data on the bearer; page three has a photograph attached with an embossed seal; page four is for notation of changes of address; pages five and six are blank; pages seven through ten are for special entries; and pages eleven and twelve bear the regulations, in Chinese, Russian, and English, for the use of the permit.

The permits and the house register system were inaugurated together, so that all permits from the beginning carried the authenticating seal described above. The permit is valid for a year and must be renewed promptly at the Public Safety Bureau, on penalty, if the renewal is late, of a heavy fine and the publication of an apology in the press for the delay. New permits are issued to replace lost ones only after the payment of a heavy fine and the submission of two guarantees from prominent citizens of the honesty of the bearer. A resident who leaves the area of issue temporarily must turn in his permit to the police and reclaim it upon his return to the area. Persons arriving from other areas to take up permanent residence in Harbin apply for a permit by turning in to the Bureau of Public Safety their travel visas, receiving in return a receipt which serves as identification until the permanent permit is issued.

- d. Certificate of membership in the Soviet Citizen's Association (Obshchestvo Sovetskikh Grazhdan), containing personal data, a photograph, and notations of payment of dues. There is no specific term of validity.
- e. Membership card or candidate's card in the Soviet Youth Union (Soyuz Sovetskoi Molodezhi Pri Obshchestve Sovetskikh Grazhdan), for persons between fifteen and thirty years old. The two cards are similar to that of the SCA.
- f. Trade union membership books. Employed persons are normally required to join either a Chinese or a locally-organized Soviet trade union, which issues a membership document. Everyone belongs to the general union of Harbin workers and employees.
- g. Identification with place of employment (Udostovereniye Lichnosti). Chinese and local Soviet employees of the Chinese Changchun Railway in Harbin have a brown cardboard folder 2 by 3 inches in size, with the

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Chinese character for railway on the cover. Inside, the bearer's personal data and the shop in which he is employed are inscribed in Chinese, and there is a photograph of him in the middle of the second page. At factory gates it is customary just to flash the folder without opening it. All other Soviet organizations have similar identification certificates for employees. Sovetskportfilm, for example, issues a red cardboard folder with the Sovetskport seal on the front cover and inside, in Russian, personal data and a photograph of the bearer.

7. Soviet citizens from the USSR arrive with either a diplomatic or service passport and travel orders (Komandirovochnoye predpisanie) and immediately report to the Soviet consulate to have the passport entered on the register. They then turn in their travel orders to the ranking Soviet official at their place of employment. In general they are recruited in the USSR for specific positions in Manchuria and have their assignments before they arrive.
8. Stateless persons hold only the Residence Permit issued by the Bureau of Public Safety. These persons fall into the following categories:
  - a. Russian emigrants who have not applied for Soviet citizenship or who have applied and been rejected.
  - b. Jews of Russian or Polish birth who have refused to accept either Soviet or post-war Polish citizenship and are attempting to obtain exit visas to Israel.
  - c. Persons of undetermined status, such as nationals of Poland, Rumania, Czechoslovakia, the Baltic states, or other countries under Soviet domination, who have for a variety of reasons allowed their passports to lapse.
9. It is not normal for foreign residents of Harbin to carry their basic identity documents on their persons. To avoid loss, and since there have been no police checks for documents since the end of 1948, these papers are kept at home. Residence checks are so effective that in case of trouble the legality of residence of any individual can be easily determined. The employee's certificate of identification is carried because it must be presented to the gate guard upon entering and leaving the premises.
10. Communications censorship exists openly in the case of telegrams and is suspected in the mail; telephone conversations within the city are not overtly monitored. Telegrams must be sent from a post office, and there the clerk reads the message and requests the sender to delete any objectionable passage. Mail censorship is considered likely because of the protracted delay in delivery of letters which are known to have arrived at the Central Post Office. All envelopes used for correspondence are post office stock, sealed with cheap glue, and it is impossible to tell whether they have been opened. There are no indications of passages being cut out or blackened to make them illegible. No foreign periodicals are received in the mail or put on sale in public bookstalls.

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Comment. For a discussion of the place of this section in the Harbin government; [REDACTED] 25X1A

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